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Duck shot with arrow

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LOCALS have expressed their outrage after a duck was shot with an arrow last week.

The duck is recovering in an animal hospital after it was found at Cedar Vale.

Truck driver Paul McSweeney was driving on Dennis Road when he noticed the duck next to the road.

As Mr McSweeney's wife Andrea is a local wildlife carer, he pulled over to investigate, and was shocked to find a metal-tipped arrow poking all the way through the duck's chest.

He called his wife who caught the duck and immediately drove it to Brisbane Bird and Exotic Veterinary Service, where vets anaesthetised the duck and removed the arrow.

Mrs McSweeney said the vet estimated the bird had been shot three to four days earlier.

"Three to four days that duck had been suffering," she said.

"Why do people do this?"

"People used to shoot it to eat, not for fun. What sort of person is just so stupid and nasty? That was just misery for that duck."

Mrs McSweeney said the duck, now nicknamed 'Archer', was recovering slowly.



Archer the duck is recovering in hospital after he was shot with an arrow in Cedar Vale.

"He's not through the worst yet," she said.

"We're worried about an infection. They can't see any break in the wing but there's muscle damage, so we're not sure that the duck will ever fly again.

"If not, that duck has had a hard enough time, it could be put into a sanctuary."

RSPCA spokesman Micheal Beatty said unfortunately it was common for animals to be used as target practice.

"We had a bush turkey in just the other day with a huge arrow out of it, it died though," he said.

"Unfortunately you regularly see wallabies and kangaroos with arrows."

Mr Beatty said it was very frustrating.

"In most cases the animals that they're actually

shooting at, particularly in semi-urban areas, are used to people anyway, so it's hardly any hunting challenge," he said.

"Often the people shooting the arrow aren't what you call highly skilled and in most cases they tend to wound rather than kill."

Mr Beatty said archers shooting native wildlife could technically be prosecuted under both the Native Fauna Protection Act as well as the Animal Care and Protection Act.

"Obviously animals can't talk so we are totally reliant on people coming forward with information," he said.

• Anyone with information about who shot the duck or other cases of animal cruelty should call the RSPCA on 1300 852 188.